

MAR 13 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY
FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, farm to school programs improve the connection
2 that communities have with fresh, nutritious food and local
3 farmers by changing food purchasing and education practices at
4 schools and preschools; and

5
6 WHEREAS, across the country, an increasing number of states
7 have established farm to school programs; and

8
9 WHEREAS, a farm to school program supports the local
10 economy and enriches school children's bodies and minds by
11 bringing locally grown or raised foods into school cafeterias;
12 providing educational activities that emphasize food, farming,
13 and nutrition; and offering hands-on learning activities
14 including school gardening, farm visits, and culinary classes;
15 and

16
17 WHEREAS, Washington State's Department of Agriculture
18 created a tool kit to assist the implementation of a farm to
19 school program; and

20
21 WHEREAS, other states, including Ohio and Virginia, began
22 farm to school programs with only one or two agricultural
23 products; and

24
25 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of
26 Agriculture's recent Farm to School Census, school districts
27 participating in farm to school programs purchased and served
28 over \$385,000,000 in local food during the 2011-2012 school
29 year, and more than half of the participating schools plan to
30 increase local food purchases; and

31
32 WHEREAS, there are many challenges and successes that come
33 with the implementation of a farm to school program, and a



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1 statewide, one-size-fits-all approach may delay the
2 implementation process; and
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4 WHEREAS, allowing a single Department of Education Complex
5 Area to implement a farm to school program, rather than
6 requiring statewide implementation, will allow a Complex Area
7 with the resources to implement a farm to school program to
8 partner with its local farmers without delay; now, therefore,
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
13 Education is encouraged to establish the Hawaii Voluntary Farm
14 to School Program to improve school children's access to
15 nutritious foods in public educational institutions by providing
16 Department of Education Complex Areas with the opportunity and
17 option to purchase locally grown food for schools from food
18 safety certified farms in the State; provided that the
19 respective Complex Area Superintendent authorizes participation
20 in the Hawaii Voluntary Farm to School Program; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a farmer providing products to
23 a Department of Education Complex Area's farm to school program
24 provide evidence that the farmer has an adequate supply of
25 products to supply the Complex Area's farm to school program for
26 one year; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a farmer providing products to
29 a Department of Education Complex Area's farm to school program
30 be food safety certified and subject to all applicable state and
31 federal food safety regulations, inspections, and audits and
32 maintain sufficient product liability insurance; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
36 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson
37 of the Board of Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY:

Michelle Kane

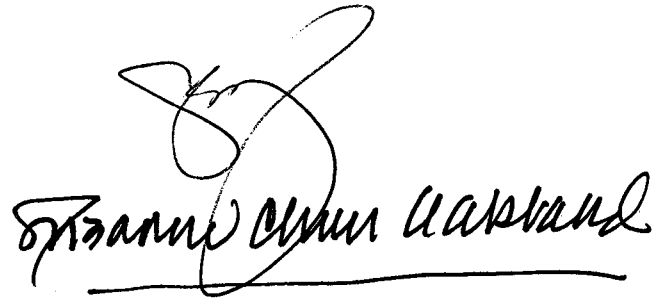
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